* The *modus operandi* and the motive of the accused persons into these activities.
* The level of cooperation/assistance provided by local administration, especially police to the affected parents/families and the community.

Early warning device for disasters

1716. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with 13 per cent of world's sea cyclones around India and two tsunami-genic zones- Andaman-Samatra trench and Makran Coast in its vicinity, an early warning device to mitigate potential loss is urgently needed;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard to prepare the Civil authorities to evacuate affected persons, with a minimum loss of time; and

(c) whether the necessary infrastructure in the shape of vehicles, safe temporary dwelling place, timely procurement of tents, rations, etc., has been provided or is being provided, based on our experience of 2004 tsunami tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government is aware of the need for an Early Warning System for Tsunami. Accordingly, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoEs) has undertaken a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency project to realize an operational national early warning system for tsunami and storm surges by September, 2007. The Early Warning Centre at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad is likely to be made functional by September, 2007. However, an interim TEWS has already been made operational by MoES, at INCOIS, Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) Execution of rescue, response and relief operations in the wake of disasters is the primary responsibility of the concerned States for which they are generally prepared. Government of India extends logistic and financial support to the affected States in the event of severe calamities. The Ministry of Home Affairs maintains and Emergency

Operation Centre, which works on 24x7 basis, and the information about impending disasters is disseminated to the States immediately, so that necessary steps in evacuation etc. are immediately initiated by them. Operationalization of TEWS would enable dissemination of information at the earliest.

Bungling by Delhi Police in cases of murder

1717. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the much talked about three cases Jessica Lal, Nitish Katara and Priyadarshini Mattoo are standing examples of official bungling by the police and poor handling of the cases by the lower level judiciary;

(b) whether there is a need for a well defined accountability level for the police; and

(c) if so, what are the initiatives envisaged on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Session Court in the Jessica Lal murder case investigated by Delhi, acquitted all the accused. Some lacunae were found in the initial investigation. However, the cases ended in conviction in High Court on the appeal prepared by Special Investigation Team of Delhi Police. Delhi Police has already initiated action against some police personnel against whom court had made certain observations. According to CBI which was investigating the Priyadarshini Mattoo murder case, there was no bungling in investigation of the case. However, the Trial Court acquitted the accused. Aggrieved by the order of Trial Court, CBI filed appeal against the order of acquittal in the High Court, which set aside the Trial Court's order and convicted the accused. The accused was sentenced to death by the High Court of Delhi. In both cases, appeals have been filed in the Supreme Court against the order of High Court of Delhi. The Nitish Katara case has been investigated by Uttar Pradesh Police. The system of scrutiny by various courts of the cases investigated by Police authorities makes them accountable. In addition, Section 217 IPC provides punishment to those public servants disobeying the directions of law with intent to